

ALOYSIUS ALIVE

Vol. 34 No. 4

January-February 2019

A perfect portrait of stewardship

Faithful giving helps color our spiritual lives

By Michael J. Acaldo

If I were an artist and could paint the perfect portrait of stewardship, it would look much like our faith community at St. Aloysius. Each person in the picture would be just as important as the next and would be shown working together to fulfill our parish mission: "To embrace and nurture all, inspire each to act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly in the love of God."

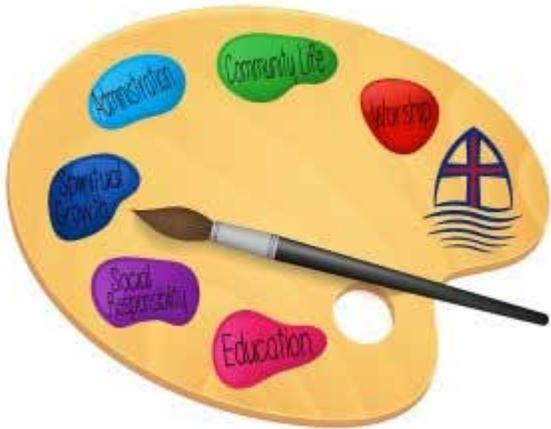
Think of yourself as an artist and the life that God has blessed you with as a blank canvas. Every thought, word and deed adds color and is an integral part of the final product. Stewardship is the way in which we can spiritually fill that canvas, portraying a life that is full and worthwhile.

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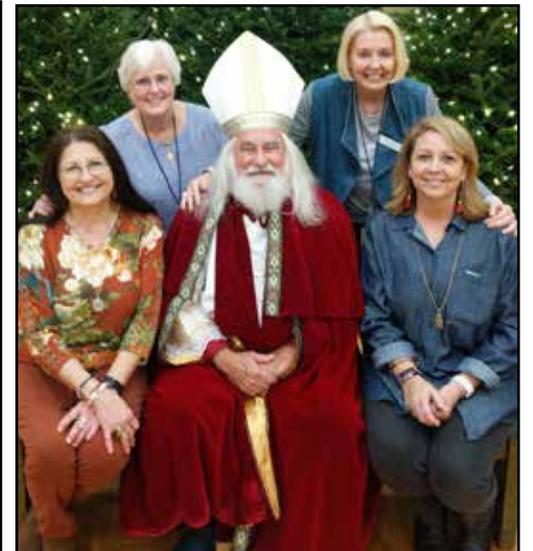
As I wrote these words, I thought about my own spiritual life, and how much I have grown spiritually during the last year. Every day is an opportunity to grow and, as we paint the portrait of our lives, the smallest things can make a difference – from the brush we use to the colors we select. That means that everything we think and do should be focused on our personal spiritual growth.

Every artist knows the three primary colors (red, blue and yellow) from which every other color is created. There are also three primary aspects of stewardship – prayer, ministry and

Continued on page 2



In service to one, in service to all



Advent at Aloysius allows parishioners to 'Rejoice in His Light'

The second annual Advent at Aloysius, held on Saturday, Dec. 1, was a beautiful evening of celebration.

This year, more than 500 St. Aloysius parishioners gathered in fellowship to "Rejoice in His Light."

It is with sincere gratitude that we thank our donors, volunteers and parishioners for their gifts, talents and stewardship of ministry to make the event enjoyable for all.

More photos, Page 4

St. Aloysius Knights of Columbus serve the community. Page 5.



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Church of Second Chances group explores criminal justice reform

By Thomas Telhiard

Recently, several members of St. Aloysius parish joined others from different parishes and other denominations to engage in a JustMatters module entitled Church of Second Chances. This interactive module is one of several programs offered through JustFaith Ministries, an online resource that provides programs to invite personal transformation.

The Church of Second Chances group met on Thursday evenings and delved into a faithful exploration of incarceration as seen through the eyes of both those inside and outside prison walls, who engage in the Christian principle of restorative justice and its direct relationship with criminal justice reform. The group read and reflected on a book entitled The Church of The Second Chance, written by Jen Soering, someone on the “inside,” and watched videos and engaged in dialogue with persons involved with criminal justice reform.

As part of the reading material, the group also read the U.S. Catholic Bishops statement entitled “Responsibility, Rehabilitation and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice.” What a treasure this document was, as it surprised some in the group that the Catholic Church has within its possession such a vibrant and challenging document on criminal justice reform.

Leonard Augustus was especially encouraged to “find how the Catholic Church’s teachings



influence and support taking responsibility for our brothers and sisters who find themselves incarcerated.” Augustus was also impressed by how “blending prayer, education and testimonials helped create a safe environment for participants to share, reflect and be motivated to act responsibly and compassionately.”

Edith Babin was inspired and motivated by the formation process to “speak to others about these issues, to spread the information I have learned from the book and from our conversation with those who have been in the prison system ...I plan to join some of these groups to continue to do what I can to make a difference.”

Mary Jo Schneider shared that the module gave her “a much more informed and sympathetic look at both victims and offenders. The stories of prison life (interviews in the book and those who visited with us) were so interesting and real. I think I had a much more idealistic view instead of realistic. Also I think I have a different perspective on forgiveness. We all have a story.”

Anne Dunn credits the pro-

gram for challenging and inspiring her with “a different perspective on criminal justice, making me realize how much my attitudes about keeping people in prison have been formed by years of public policy based upon fear rather than facts and fueled by powerful businesses whose economic interests are tied up in incarcerating more and more people, be it running prisons, providing exorbitant priced phone service, exploiting prisoners’ labor or otherwise bilking the system at the expense of those who are imprisoned and the public who foot the bill. This program will inspire me to seek to influence public criminal justice policy toward wiser, more humane and effective spending of public dollars.”

As a member of the group myself, I was impacted by the content of the material presented but perhaps more so by the honest interaction between the members of our group as we struggled with learning about injustices structured within the criminal justice system and our society, and then dreamed of ways we could possibly integrate this education in a transformative way on a personal and communal level.

Augustus found one suggested way of integrating a returning citizen into the community to be very promising: “I was astounded by the huge and positive impact our church could have on the community if we (each church parish) could simply sponsor two individuals per year with their rehabilitation and re-entry process.

The cost is low, the effort minimal, the impact – GREAT and literally life changing. We have all it takes to build the Kingdom now right at our fingertips.”

At times the group felt a bit overwhelmed by the complexity of criminal justice reform with regards to mass incarceration. One of our guest presenters offered a wonderfully hopeful image of the impact that we all can have in whatever capacity we may integrate criminal justice reform in our personal attitudes and actions.

The criminal justice reform complex is similar to a mobile, where each piece may seem separate but is joined by sometimes unseen connectors. These different pieces could be prison ministry, re-entry, rehabilitation, advocacy for reform in the criminal justice system, writing inspirational notes

to those incarcerated, or baking cookies. Each one of us in our own way can touch one piece in the mobile, and somehow it moves all the other pieces as well. The impact of one is the impact on all.

JF Ministries is offered at St. Aloysius Parish and participant groups are formed as people show interest in specific programs/modules provided by JF Ministries. The topics all involve engaging spirituality with justice ministry, and include important and relevant themes such as exploring migration, cultivating nonviolence, harvesting peace, building bridges between diverse religious communities, and responding faithfully to food insecurity. For more information please visit <https://justfaith.org> or contact Thomas Telhiard at 225-505-0482 or tpt63@att.net.

ALOYSIUS 2019 LENTEN MISSION “Knowing God through our Sacred Scriptures”

Father Greg Plata, OFM

Regional Vocations Director for the Franciscan Order

- Monday – Wednesday, March 11-13
- Morning Presentation at 9 a.m.
- Evening Presentation at 7 p.m.
- All Presentations in the Church

Mass Schedule

SATURDAY

Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m.

SUNDAY

7 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

HOLY DAYS

Schedule will be announced

DAILY MASSES

Monday & Wednesday, 6 a.m.

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 8 a.m.

CONFESSIONS: Monday and Wednesday after 6:00 a.m. Mass; Tuesday and Thursday from 7:30-8:00 a.m.; Saturday 3:30-4:00 p.m. (when the adjacent Mass is celebrated).

FUNERALS: Please contact the Parish Office prior to scheduling with the funeral home. If after hours, follow directions on voicemail.

PARISH SCHOOL: For information, phone 383-3871, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

NURSERY/CHILDCARE CENTER: For information, phone 343-1338, 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

BAPTISM: Please contact the Parish Office during early months of pregnancy. Baptismal preparation is required.

SPONSORS: Baptism & Confirmation sponsors must be confirmed practicing Catholics in good standing in the Catholic Church, and if not St. Aloysius Parishioners, must provide a letter of good standing from the parish where they are registered.

MARRIAGE: Couples are asked to contact the priest at the beginning of the period of engagement at least six months prior to the projected date of the marriage.

CARE OF THE SICK: The Eucharist is brought to the sick weekly and hospital visits made weekly. Families of the sick are encouraged to notify the Parish Office.

Stewardship, From Page 1

offering – and each has to be in perfect balance with the others to create a composition that is pleasing in God’s eyes. Everyone is called to have a vibrant prayer life, a dynamic ministry and generosity of spirit.

2019 will be another exciting

year for our parish family. We are all focused on continuing to strengthen our 100 plus ministries and continue building God’s kingdom in our community. We are continuing our work to grow our faith community.

The Stewardship of Offering Committee invites you to share the gift of faith by making a stewardship of offering commitment. This year’s stewardship of offering commitment weekend is Feb.

9-10. We ask you to complete a commitment card and place it in the offertory basket or return it to the parish office by mail.

We appreciate your past stewardship and thank you in advance for your commitment to this year’s stewardship of offering effort. Thank you for helping us to ensure a future full of hope for our entire St. Aloysius Faith Community.

aloysius alive

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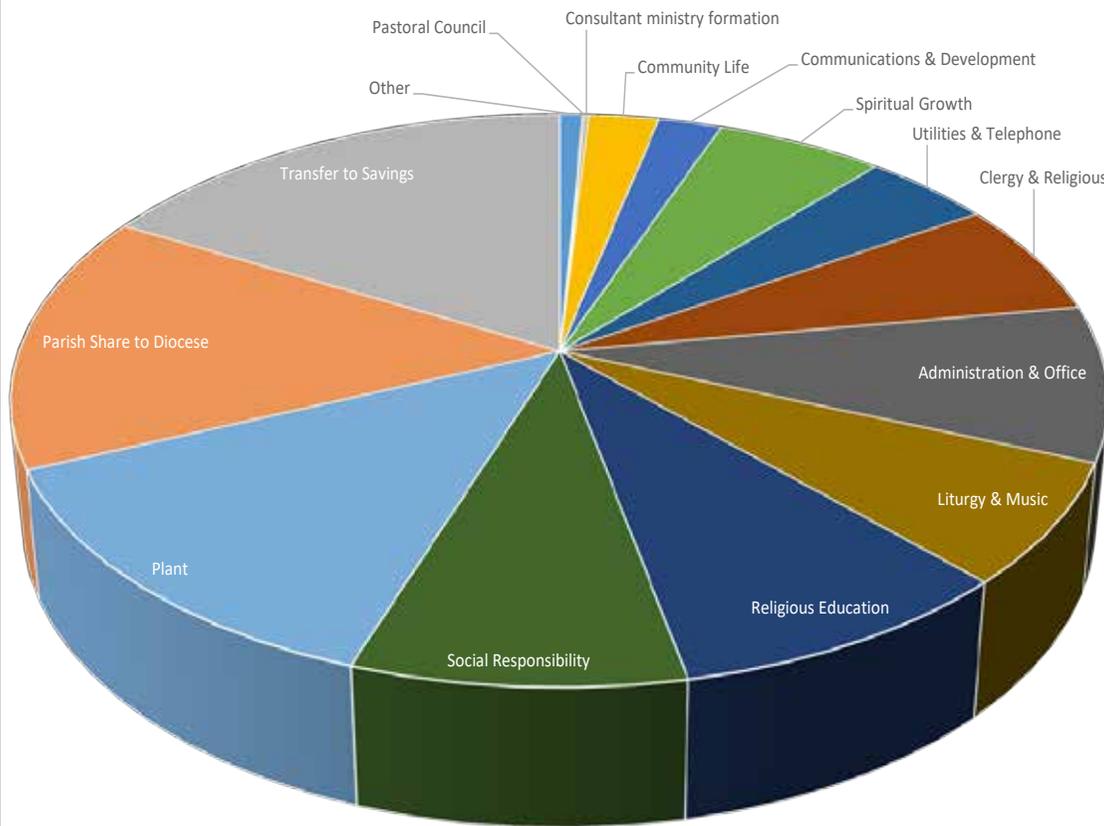
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Published by St Aloysius Parish.
Postage paid
at Baton Rouge, LA.
Postmaster:

Send address changes to
Aloysius Alive,
2025 Stuart Avenue,
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Expenses from Operations FYE 6/30/2018



**ST. ALOYSIUS CHURCH
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2018**

BALANCES AT 6/30/2018

Operating Savings ¹	\$ 669,768
Building Fund Savings ²	408,498
Parish Endowment Fund at BR Area Foundation	768,110

BUILDING INCOME AT 6/30/2018

Building Fund and Capital Campaign Contributions ³	\$ 1,021,944
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¹Operating Savings meets the goal of preserving three months of parish expenses.
²Building Fund Savings includes the parish's deductible for a named-storm should the parish suffer severe damage due to a hurricane or tropical storm.
³At 7/1/2017, the remaining amount due on the Child Care Center was \$904,771. The debt was eliminated in FY 2017-18, through the guidance of the Finance Council. Capital Campaign collections and proceeds from the three annual fundraisers continue to be devoted to fulfilling the goals of the parish Master Plan.

**ST. ALOYSIUS CHURCH
SUMMARY OF INCOME FOR SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2018**

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS FY 2017-18

Agency Collections

Latin America	2,880
Home Missions	2,488
Bishop's Annual Appeal	285
Holy Land	1,133
Catholic Relief Services	4,235
Catholic Communications	2,452
Peter's Pence	2,925
Central & Eastern Europe	1,569
Catholic University	4,322
Human Development	2,824
Retirement Fund for Religious	55
Black & Indian Missions	2,871
Special Emergency Appeals	24,809
World Mission Sunday	2,752
Diocesan Priest Retirement	21,018
Total Agency Collections	76,617

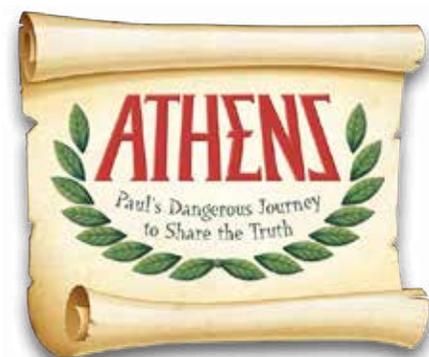
Mission Collections

Special Mission Appeals	29,361
Total Mission Collections	29,361
Disaster Recovery, Flood Relief	55,053

**ST. ALOYSIUS CHURCH
SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENSES
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2018**

INCOME	FY 2017-18	PERCENT
Stewardship of Offering	\$ 2,590,320	85.48%
Parish Fair, Auction, Raffle, Golf Tournament	192,739	6.36%
Reimbursements, Miscellaneous Income	247,349	8.16%
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 3,030,408.55	100.00%
EXPENSES	FY 2017-18	PERCENT
Liturgy & Music	\$ 206,150	6.80%
Clergy & Religious	196,289	6.48%
Religious Education	269,328	8.89%
Social Responsibility	254,305	8.39%
Spiritual Growth	176,811	5.83%
Community Life	73,867	2.44%
Communications & Development	66,486	2.19%
Consultant Ministry Formation	3,853	0.13%
Pastoral Council	2,367	0.08%
Plant	400,854	13.23%
Utilities & Telephone	135,147	4.46%
Parish Share to Diocese	444,003	14.65%
Administration & Office	265,052	8.75%
Other	24,201	0.80%
Transfer to Savings	511,696	16.89%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 3,030,408.55	100.00%

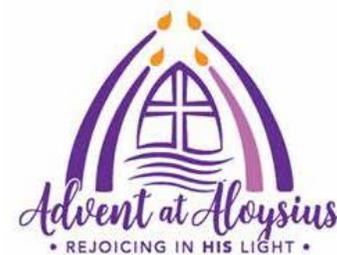
*Parish tithe to Social Responsibility is based on net operating income and is 11.85%.
 Building income and details are listed separately.



**Save the date!!!
 Vacation Bible School
 June 10-13
 9 a.m. - noon**

**If you would like to help,
 fill out the sign-up form online
 under Stewardship of Ministry link.**

Advent at Aloysius



PLEASE JOIN US
FOR THE ROARING 20's

ST. ALOYSIUS AUCTION

7:00 PM • FEBRUARY 1, 2019
L'AUBERGE EVENT CENTER

ITINERARY	EVENTS
7:00 DOORS OPEN	WINE TOSS
8:30 LIVE AUCTION BEGINS	JEWELRY PULL
10:00 SILENT AUCTION CLOSSES	BALLOON POP
10:15 CHECK OUT OPENS	FORK PULL
11:00 LIVE BAND ENDS	SMILE BOOTH

STALOYSIUS.TICKET.QTEGO.NET/TICKETS/LIST

Thank you to all who took part in St. Vincent de Paul book drive

Thank you St. Aloysius parishioners, staff and Advent at Aloysius coordinators for your heart and good works in our 2nd Annual Advent at Aloysius. It was filled with delight and the light of Christ as we came together to rejoice in the name of the Lord.

Thank you St. Aloysius parishioners for your generous donations of books, which will greatly benefit our families and neighbors in need whom we visit weekly through our St. Aloysius St. Vincent de Paul ministry.

All through the year, as the St. Aloysius St. Vincent de Paul volunteers, called "Vincentians," make their home visits to our neighbors in need to assist with rent, utilities, food, water, clothing, furniture and more. Many times, items such as rosaries, prayer booklets and children's books are shared with those in need. Not only do we make the home visits to our neighbors, we always pray with them and sometimes are blessed to even read a book to a child while we are there. An everlasting blessing to all, thanks

to the generosity and good hearts of St. Aloysius parishioners.

Thanks to the many children and their families who brought not only bags and boxes of books but smiles of satisfaction by being part of this ministry of giving to others. St. Vincent de Paul's closet is now filled with hundreds of fabulous books to be delivered during the home visits. Parishioners heard the call and responded to those families in need who will benefit from these precious gifts.

Kristy Roubique and Cathy St. Pierre, both on the Pastoral Council, along with Paul Coreil and Martha Cedotal of the Social Responsibility Commission worked together to organize the event. Angela Falgoust made the bookmarks that we gave as a thank you to parishioners who stopped by with donated books. Vincentians Aeli Poydras, Ron Chenevert, Jeanette Rolfsen, Dela Jakub Wood, Kathryn Carr, Gene Gomez and Kim Hardman boxed the books with much gratitude. A heartfelt thanks to all!



St. Aloysius Knights of Columbus volunteer efforts aid community

The Knights of Columbus at St. Aloysius parish does a lot of activities for the church and with the school throughout the year. However, we are also active in our local community.

- In March, council members spent the day cleaning up the yard of a recent widow.

- In June, the council grilled hundreds of hamburgers and hot dogs for the Neighbor Fest.

- In September, council members volunteered as pit bosses and scorekeepers at the Capital Area Special Olympics Horseshoe Tournament.

- In October, the council do-

minated \$500 to Habitat for Humanity and donated \$500 to the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank.

- In November, the council raised more than \$2,000 for people with intellectual disabilities through the annual Tootsie Roll Drive at Robert's Fresh Market on Highland Road.

- Also in November, the council cooked jambalaya for the Born to Run event to support the work of the Woman's New Life Center.

- In December, council members volunteered as pit bosses at the Capital Area Special Olympics Bowling Tournament.



St. Aloysius School serves the community



"Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love."

This quote from St. Teresa of Calcutta guides the parents, faculty and students of St. Aloysius School who are making service a priority for this school year.

The entire school has participated in collecting used Halloween costumes, implementing ideas to show care for creation, writing letters of support to police officers and collecting food for the Food Bank at All School Masses once a month. In addition, the students prepared place-mats and wrote encouraging notes for the men and women participating in ACTS retreats and the KAIROS retreat at Angola.

In November, the second- and eighth-graders made blessing bags for people in our community who may be in need. The bags contained snacks, toothbrushes, toothpaste, band-aids and other useful items.

Also in November, responding to the call of the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank, parents initiated a "pop up" food collection. E-mail and text messages were sent out to the school community on Wednesday evening. By Friday morning, 1,447 pounds of food were collected and brought to the Food Bank.

The December service project for the entire school was to support the American Red Cross in its Holiday Mail for Heroes campaign to send Christmas greetings to every service member of the United States military. Students in Pre-K through eighth grade drew pictures and wrote notes containing holiday greetings, scripture passages and expressions of thanks. As a special part of this project, third-grade students were visited by Gena Hand, who is in charge of the Red Cross program. Third-graders also gathered to hear from Robert Harris, a member of the military who shared his experiences of receiving holiday cards. He brought the actual cards he received as a soldier. The students then created their own cards to contribute to the program.

St. Aloysius School will continue to perform services throughout the school year. Ideas for service are proposed by faculty, students, parents and parishioners.





First Eucharist, Reconciliation schedule

First Reconciliation will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 2, in the church.

First Eucharist Afternoon of Reflection and Parent Meeting is from 1:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. Sunday, March 24. Parents and First Eucharist candidates attend this event.

First Eucharist will be celebrated on Saturday, May 4, during the 4:30 p.m. vigil Mass and on Sunday, May 5, during the 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Masses.

For more information, please contact Tricia Greely at tgreely@staloyusparish.com or at 225 343-6657.



Go Bears!

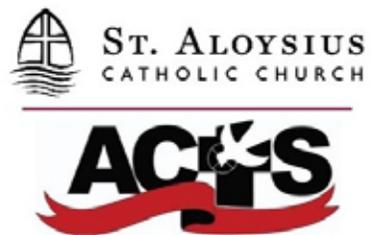
Celebrating on the sidelines at Memorial Stadium are Catholic High senior football players and St. Aloysius alumni Cole Cazenave, Brandon Hubicz, Edward Francis and Landry Kerth, along with Father Eddie Martin, team chaplain. CHS earned their way to the Superdome for the second year in a row to play for the state title, finishing the season as LHSAA Division I state runners-up.

Sign-up now under way for Spring Acts Retreat

The Men of St. Aloysius are invited to attend the Spring Acts Retreat on March 28-31 at Rosaryville Retreat Center in Ponchatoula. Cost per person is \$250, with a deposit of \$75 to be submitted along to complete the application. Space at the retreat is limited to 36 participants.

Sign up runs from Saturday, Jan. 26, through 4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 8. Applications will be handed out following all Masses on Jan. 26-27. Completed forms with deposits should be dropped off at the church office before the deadline.

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Busy, busy holiday season at Child Care Center

The Child Care Center had an eventful and festive end to the year!

The Thanksgiving holiday season started with the annual Family Feathers event. Together, families decorated feathers and discussed all the things for which they were thankful. The feathers were then added to the Family Turkey displayed in the center's lobby. Children further learned the importance of giving and thankfulness by bringing in groceries for families in need through the church's Thanksgiving Baskets ministry. The Thanksgiving celebrations wrapped up with the annual Thanksgiving Dinner, a special time for the center to come together as a family and enjoy each other's company outside of regular school hours.

To celebrate Veterans Day, the children made thank-you cards for the men and women who serve our country. Later in the week, there was a special celebration for Mickey Mouse's birthday, and everyone wore Disney attire!

Christmas time! The center again partnered with Sanctuary for Life, a ministry of Catholic Charities, to help women and their newborn babies. Each class was asked to bring items such as diapers, washcloths, formula and toys to donate to this charity. Santa then visited the center to gather all the supplies for delivery. Santa also made visits up and down the halls of the center, visiting with the children and taking pictures.

Christmas festivities concluded with another special appearance by Santa, with Mrs. Claus this time, who read a Christmas story to the children. There was also a Christmas Pajama Day, and finally, class parties, where each child opened a special present from her or her parents.

Each year, the classrooms at SACCC are observed at least twice under the CLASS program, which measures quality interactions between teacher and student. CLASS helps child-care providers nurture children's early learning while responding to their needs. The St. Aloysius Child Care Center performed outstanding and is one of only 16 child care centers in East Baton Rouge to make the Honor Roll list. Congratulations to all the teachers, the students, and our hard-working director Kim!

It was a fun and busy holiday season, and we can't wait to see what 2019 brings!

